I claim:

1. In combination with a microprocessor-controlled appliance operating with a switch-off delay, a configuration for identifying a switch position, comprising:

a power switch having given switch positions and including a first switch and a second switch, said first switch being connected in series with said second switch;

said first switch and said second switch selectively opening and closing only jointly;

a sensor having a first input, a second input, and an output;

said second input of said sensor to be connected to a first conductor selected from the group consisting of a first live conductor, a second live conductor, and a neutral conductor;

said second switch having a first contact and a second contact, said first contact to be connected to a second conductor selected from the group consisting of the first live conductor, the second live conductor, and the neutral conductor;

said second contact of said second switch being connected to said first input of said sensor for passing a measurement

current to said first input of said sensor when a voltage is applied and said power switch is switched on; and

a microprocessor operatively connected to said sensor, said output of said sensor transmitting an output signal corresponding to one of the given switch positions of said power switch to said microprocessor.

2. The configuration according to claim 1, wherein said sensor includes a DC decoupler and a signal former.

3. The configuration according to claim 1, wherein said sensor includes an optocoupler for providing a DC decoupling.

4. The configuration according to claim 1, wherein said sensor contains an isolating transformer for providing a DC decoupling.

5. The configuration according to claim 1, wherein said sensor includes a signal former having a Schmitt trigger.

6. The configuration according to claim 1, wherein said sensor includes a signal former having a threshold circuit.

7. The configuration according to claim 1, wherein said sensor includes a signal former having a monoflop.

8. The configuration according to claim 1, including a sensor shift register connected to said output of said sensor, said sensor shift register being interrogated by the microprocessor.

9. The configuration according to claim 1, including:

a sensor shift register connected to said output of said sensor;

an actuator shift register connected to said sensor shift register; and

a relay assembly actuated by said actuator shift register for providing the switch-off delay; and

a sensor/actuator control board, said sensor, said sensor shift register, said actuator shift register, and said relay assembly being disposed on said sensor/actuator control board.

10. The configuration according to claim 1, including:

a third switch connected in parallel to said power switch and being controlled by said microprocessor for providing the switch-off delay; and

said first switch decoupling said second switch from said third switch.

11. A microprocessor-controlled appliance, comprising:

a power switch having given switch positions and including a first switch and a second switch, said first switch being connected in series to said second switch;

said first switch and said second switch selectively opening and closing only jointly;

a sensor operatively connected to said microprocessor and having a first input, a second input, and an output;

said second input of said sensor to be connected to a first conductor selected from the group consisting of a first live conductor, a second live conductor, and a neutral conductor;

said second switch having a first contact and a second contact, said first contact to be connected to a second conductor selected from the group consisting of the first live conductor, the second live conductor, and the neutral conductor;

said second contact of said second switch being connected to said first input of said sensor for passing a measurement current to said first input of said sensor when a voltage is applied and said power switch is switched on; and

a microprocessor operatively connected to said sensor, said output of said sensor transmitting an output signal corresponding to one of the switch positions of said power switch to said microprocessor.

12. A microprocessor-controlled franking machine, comprising:

a power switch having given switch positions and including a first switch and a second switch, said first switch being connected in series to said second switch;

said first switch and said second switch selectively opening and closing only jointly;

a sensor operatively connected to said microprocessor and having a first input, a second input, and an output;

said second input of said sensor to be connected to a first conductor selected from the group consisting of a first live conductor, a second live conductor, and a neutral conductor;

said second switch having a first contact and a second contact, said first contact to be connected to a second conductor selected from the group consisting of the first live conductor, the second live conductor, and the neutral conductor;

said second contact of said second switch being connected to said first input of said sensor for passing a measurement current to said first input of said sensor when a voltage is applied and said power switch is switched on;

a microprocessor operatively connected to said sensor, said output of said sensor transmitting an output signal corresponding to one of the switch positions of said power switch to said microprocessor; and

a franking machine meter operatively connected to said microprocessor.